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 Date 19 Oct '88

# Bush's book ready for Russian readers

By Antero Pietila

Washington Bureau of The Sun

WASHINGTON — When Ilya Levkov — a registered Democrat and self-described "smart aleck" — bets on George Bush to win, he's got more than money riding on the wager.

He's got books. Hundreds of them. They are all in Russian and he hopes to sell them, primarily to Soviets who have emigrated to the United States.

The 45-year-old New Yorker is the publisher of the Russian translation of the Republican presidential candidate's autobiography. In three weeks, his small Manhattan publishing house has sold "a couple of hundred" out of a printing of 2,800 copies of "Toiko Vpered," which was originally released as "Looking Forward" by Doubleday a year ago.

"I'm advertising on radio, television and in a Russian language

newspaper," says Mr. Levkov, who offers a \$3 discount from the book's \$14.95 list price for copies ordered before the Nov. 8 election. But he angrily rejects any tie-in with the Bush campaign, saying, "I'm a registered Democrat. I don't have anything to do with Republican concerns."

According to a spokesman, Doubleday has sold overseas rights for the Bush autobiography's British, Japanese and West German editions.

A small Russian edition printed in America seems like an oddity, but Mr. Levkov says he is just an aspiring capitalist taking advantage of what he sees as a market demand. After all, tens of thousands of America's Soviet emigres overwhelmingly favor Mr. Bush in this year's elections, as does *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, New York's Russian daily newspaper.

Mr. Levkov, who emigrated from the Soviet Union 32 years ago, says

he has no way of knowing whether the Russian translation — which contains 24 photos of the candidate and his family — has found its way to the Kremlin. "Soviet diplomats have gotten several copies," he notes. (It just could be that the Soviets beat Mr. Levkov in translating the book; important books are often hastily translated in Moscow for restricted circulation among the Kremlin leadership.)

During its three years of existence, Mr. Levkov's Liberty Publishing House has brought out several American best sellers in Russian. Among them is Tom Clancy's "Hunt for the Red October," a copy of which the U.S. negotiating team at Geneva's INF negotiations presented as a gift to their Soviet colleagues.

Mr. Levkov says he is now planning to bring out Russian editions of two other Tom Clancy best sellers — "Patriot Games" and "The Cardinal of the Kremlin" — as well as a history of the CIA.